-W-S-Q-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:4),

-W-S-P-W-S-E-W-T-S-C-S-T-S-C-G-N-G-I-Q-Q-R-G-R- (SEQ ID NO:15),

-W-S-H-W-S-P-W-S-S-C-S-V-T-C-G-D-G-V-I-T-R-I-R- (SEQ ID NO:16),

-W-G-P-W-S-P-W-D-I-C-S-V-T-C-G-G-G-V-Q-K-R-S-R- (SEQ ID NO:17),

-W-S-Q-C-S-V-Y-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:18),

-T-E-W-S-A-C-S-K-S-C-G-M-G-F-S-T-R-V-T-N-R-N- (SEQ ID NO:19), and

-T-E-W-S-A-C-S-K-T-C-G-M-G-I-S-T-R-V-T-N-D-N- (SEQ ID NO:20).

2.   (Amended)   The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said A_1 is Pro or -X_1-W-X_2-X_3- (SEQ ID NO:5), X_1, X_2, and X_3 being chosen, independently of each other, from G, S and C.

3.   (Amended)   The peptide according to claim 2, wherein said A_1 is -X_1-W-S-X_3- (SEQ ID NO:6).

4.   (Amended)   The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said A_2 is selected from the group consisting of -R-S-, -V-S-, and -V-T-.

5.   (Amended)   The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises at least the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-X_1-W-S-X_2-C-S-A_2-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:7).

6.   (Amended)   The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-G-W-S-S-C-S-R-S-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:8).

7.   (Amended)   The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-A_1-C-S-A_2-C-G-Z- (SEQ ID NO:9)

in which Y and Z constitute the N– and C–terminal ends of the peptide, comprise amino acid chains having less than 6 amino acids or comprise chains of compounds that are not amino acids.

8.   (Amended)   A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

9.   (Twice Amended)   A method for regenerating nervous system cells, comprising contacting the cells with an effective amount of a peptide according claim 1.

10.   (Twice Amended)   A method for treating a neurodegenerative disease, said method comprising administering to a patient with said neurodegenerative disease an effective amount of a peptide according claim 1.

11.   (Twice Amended)   A method for treating a pathological condition or trauma requiring the regeneration of nervous system cells, said method comprising administering to a patient with said pathological condition or trauma an effective amount of a peptide according to claim 1.

12.   (Twice Amended)   A method for treating a neuroblastoma, said method comprising administering to a patient with said neuroblastoma an effective amount of a peptide according to claim 1.

13.   (Twice Amended)   An additive for culturing nerve cells, comprising a peptide according to claim 1.

14.   (Twice Amended)   A cellular expression vector, comprising a nucleic acid sequence expressing a peptide according to claim 1.

15.   (Amended)   The cellular expression vector according to Claim 14, wherein said vector comprises SEQ ID NO: 10.

Sequence Listing

Please insert the Sequence Listing filed concurrently herewith and renumber pages 1-10 of the Sequence Listing as pages 18-27. In addition, please delete the Sequence Listing filed on November 1, 2001.